

# Sita -Toru Dutt

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## Section-Two

Very short Answer type Questions: 1

Q. no 1. Who is the poet of the poem 'Sita' ?

Ans: Toru Dutt is the poet of the poem 'Sita'.

Q. no 2. What 'mythic past' does Dutt try to conjure in her poem ?

Ans: In her poem Toru Dutt tried to conjure the mythic past of Sita in her second exile .

Q. no 3. Who is the narrator in the poem ?

Ans : In the poem 'Sita' Toru Dutt's mother is the narrator .

Q. no 4. To whom does the narrator tell the story of Sita ?

Ans : The narrator told the story of Sita to her three children named Anju, Aru and Toru.

Q. no 5. Where are the three ' happy children' ?

Any : The three happy children were sitting in a dark room with their mother .

Q. no 6. Do the children actually see a dense forest ?

Ans : No , the children actually did not see a dense forest, they merely imagined it.

Q. no 7. Why do the children gaze on with wide open eyes ?

Ans : The children gazed on with wide open eyes because their mother's descriptive imagery helped them to bring the narrative alive.

Q. no 8. Who is the 'post anchorite' referred to in the poem.

Ans. Saint Valmiki is the post anchorite referred to in the poem.

Q. no 9. Identify 'this fair lady ' mentioned by the narrator.

Ans : " The fair lady " mentioned by the poet in the poem is 'Sita'.

Q. no 10. What emotions are noted in the ' lady' ?

Ans : The lady was weeping on her misfortune.

Q. no 11. Give another word for 'lady' ?

Ans : Lay : legend; narrative poem; ballad.

Q. no 12. Give contemporary English words for 'erst' and 'eventide' ?

Ans : Erst: before , Eventide: evening.

### **Short Answer type questions: 2**

Q. no 1. What do the children gaze on in the darkened room?

Ans : The above quoted line extracted from the poem moving 'Sita' penned down Toru Dutt describes the power of the mother's narrative. As the mother narrated Sita's story to her three children, her descriptive imagery helped to bring alive the narrative. The children gazed on in the darkened room and envisioned the hermitage of Valmiki in all its natural splendor. They took great pleasure in seeing all sorts of gigantic flowering plant and creepers that embraced tall trees. And in the midst of all, mourning her plight , sat Sita. Thus the children gazed on, wide-eyed, as the story of Sita seemed to unfold before their own eyes as their mother continued with her narration.

Q. no 2. 'The fair lady does not weep in vain'. Why?

Ans : 'The fair lady does not weep in vain because the three children are touched by her sorrow and weep

along with her. As Sita laments her misfortune and the day spend in exile , she has a dedicated audience in the three children, who listen to their mother's narrative with rapt attention and feel Site's pain in their own hearts.

### Short Answer type questions: 3

Q. no 1. Describe the pastoral beauty of the dense forest in which the 'post - anchorite' dwells in peace' ?

Ans : The children, engrossed in their mother's narrative envisaged Valmiki's pastoral abode. They visualized a dense forest, where no sun beams could penetrate. At its center, lay a clearing where gigantic flowers bloomed, growing on creepers and embracing the neighbouring tall trees. Nearby in a quiet lucid lake, white swans glided while peacocks rushed about from behind bushes along with herds of deer. The sunlight seemed to be wafting in grains of golden yellow and filling up cleared patches, while blue smoke rose from strange altars and in the midst of all these, dwelt Sita.

Q. no 2. What song does the mother sing? Describe its effect on the children?

Ans: The mother sings a song centered round the sorrows and agonies of Sita, as she spends her days in exile. The song sung by the mother, retelling Sita's story affects the children to a great extent. They cannot help but be drawn into it and feel the scenes unfolding before their very eyes. The narrative evokes a multitude of images in their mind and the children are able to

visualize Saint Valmiki's hermitage in all its natural beauty and splendor . So engrossed are the children in the tale that they feel their emotions becoming one with that of Sita's and they experience her pain in their hearts. As Sita weeps and laments her misfortune, the eyes of children well up and they shed tears along with her.

### Long Answer type questions: 4

Q. no 1. How are the children affected by the mother's song?

Ans: The mother sings a song centered round the sorrows and agonies of Sita, as she spends her days in exile. The song sung by the mother, retelling Sita's story affects the children to a great extent. They cannot help but be drawn into it and feel the scenes unfolding before their very eyes. The narrative evokes a multitude of images in their mind and the children are able to visualize Saint Valmiki's hermitage in all its natural beauty and splendor. So engrossed are the children in the tale that they feel their emotions becoming one with that of Sita's and they experience her pain in their hearts. As Sita weeps and laments her misfortune, the eyes of the children well up and they shed tears along with her.

Q. no 2. How does Dutt relate the past and the present in her poem?

Ans : The poem 'Sita' by Toru Dutt is a beautiful expression of the story telling method. The way the mother narrated Sita's story to her children helped to capture their imagination and transported them back in time. The imaginative description helped the three children conjure up the past in their very midst. Thus using the children's imagination, Dutt successfully conjured up the mystic past and infused into it the past glory. The poem is an interplay of the past and the present and ends with a poignant elegy on the early deaths of Dutt's siblings. Thus Dutt successfully co-related the past and present in her poem.

### Long Answer type questions: 5

Q. no 1. Describe the dwelling of the 'post - anchorite' .

Ans: The children, engrossed in their mother's narrative are able to envisage Valmiki's peaceful abode in the darkened room. They visualize a dense forest, where no sun beams can penetrate. At its center, they imagine a clearing where gigantic flowers bloom, growing on creepers and embracing the neighbouring tall trees. There, in a quiet lucid lake, white swans glide while peacocks rush about from behind bushes along with herds of deer. The sunlight seems to be wafting in grains of golden yellow and filling up cleared patches and blue smoke rises from strange altars. In the midst of all these, dwells Sita.

Q. no 2. Bring out the essence of Toru Dutt's poem 'Sita'.

Ans : The poem revolves around the trials and tribulations faced by Sita during her period of exile. The story as narrated by a mother to her three children helps the reader comprehend the anguish felt by Sita. The descriptive narrative helps to ally oneself with the agonies of Sita during her exile. For even though Sita dwelt in the strikingly beautiful pastoral hermitage of Valmiki yet her pain overpowered all else and dulled her to the beautiful nature that was present all around her.

### **Explain what reference to the context: 5**

Q. no 1. There, patches gleam with yellow waving grain  
There , blue smoke from strange altars rises light.  
There , dwells in peace, the post - anchorite .

Ans: The above quoted line extracted from the poem moving 'Sita' penned down Toru Dutt describes the abode of Saint Valmiki where Sita passed her period of exile.

As the children listened to their mother's narrative, they envisioned an idyllic hermitage that lay surrounded by beautiful Nature in all her splendor. in the pastoral hermitage, sunlight seemed to be wafting in grains of golden yellow. It filled up cleared patches while blue smoke rose from strange altars and lightly wafted in to the surroundings .

Q. no 2. But who is this fair lady? Not in vain  
She weeps, fair lo, at every tear she sheds  
Tears from three pairs of young eyes fall amain.

Ans: The above quoted lines have been extracted from the poem 'Sita' written by Toru Dutt. The lines refer to Sita, the protagonist of Dutt's poem. She was the fair lady whose tale of misfortune and anguish was being related to the three children by their mother. The children, lost in their mother's lay, could visualize Sita sitting in Valmiki's hermitage; as she silently mourned her plight. So engrossed were the children in the tale that they could feel their emotions becoming one with that of Sita. So as Sita wept and lamented her misfortune, the eyes of the listeners brimmed over. The children shed tears along with Sita because they felt her pain in their hearts.

Q. no 3. It is an old, old story, and the lay  
Which has evoked sad Sita from the past  
Is by a mother sung  
..... tis hushed at last.

Ans : The above quoted lines have been extracted from the poem 'Sita' penned down by Toru Dutt. The lines essentially describe how the mother's imaginative description seemed to evoke Sita and bring alive the imagery for her children as they listened to her narration. But Sita's plight makes the three children gloomy and their eyes well up. They bow their heads in sorrow and immerse themselves in Sita's grief until finally their mother finishes the poem and the picture of a sorrowful Sita vanishes from before their eyes.

Q. no 4. And melts the picture from their sight away,  
Yet shall they dream of it until the day !



Ans: "And melt the picture..... units the day ".  
The above lines are extracted from the poem 'Sita', composed by Toru Dutt . The poem centres around the agonies of Sita in her second exile. In the present context has shown the effect of the mother's song on the children to a great extent.

The children engrossed in their mother's narrative envisaged Valmiki's pastoral abode in all its natural beauty and splendor Sita's plight makes the there children gloomy and their eyes well up. They bow their head in sorrow and immerse themselves in Sita's grief until finally their mother finishes the poem and the picture of sorrowful Sita vanishes from their sight. The picture of Valmiki's hermitage also vanished from their imagination. They felt asleep but it had an everlasting impact on their mind.

Q. no 5. When shall those children by the mother's side  
Gather, ah me ! As erst at eventide?

Ans: ' when Shall ..... At eventide ?

The above lines are quoted from the poem 'Sita' composed by Toru Dutt. In the poem Sita Toru Dutt successfully conjured up the mythic past of Sita and attempted to infuse into it the present.

In the present context, the poet turns nostalgic while remembering her siblings Abjn and Aru who were dead. Toru Dutt's mother narrated Sita's story in her second exile to her three children Abju, Aru and Toru. The poet remembered her brother and sister who were no more

alive . She longed for the past-days to come back so that she could spend some moments of happiness with her siblings. Once again she wanted to sit with them and listened to her mother's bed time Stories. The poet becomes nostalgic. In. fact there two lines are a poignant elegy on the premature death of poet's siblings Abju and Aru, which given a melancholic strain to the poem.